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5 January 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director/Intelligence

SUBJECT: Information on Soviet Geographic Areas

Attached is the information requested by you on 4 January 1958 on the Soviet areas west of 28 degrees east and east of 108 degrees east. Although the eastern area produces only about three percent and the western area about five percent of the total Soviet industrial output, of much greater importance is the percentage of total Soviet military forces in being stationed in these areas and in the European Satellites.



OTTO E. GUTER
Assistant Director
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SIGNIFICANCE OF SOVIET AREA WEST OF 28 DEGREES EAST

Roughly five percent of the total Soviet industrial output originates in this region. It produces between five and 10 percent of the Soviet output of ships, construction materials, fabricated metals and energy and less than five percent of the Soviet output of metals, chemicals and military end items. There are seven important shipyards, four electrical machinery plants, three radio and telephone equipment plants, two railroad car plants, two machine tool plants and several chemical plants. This region contains a single producer each of electron tubes, antifriction bearing, trucks and tractors. There are no major producers of agricultural machinery, airframes, aircraft engines, guns, ammunition, explosives, petroleum products, tanks, guided missiles, or nuclear materials. Furthermore, there are no known nuclear test sites or guided missile test ranges. About 21 million people (10 percent of the USSR population) are in this area.

The area of the USSR lying west of 28 degrees east is essentially a lowland plains area. The northern two-thirds is dotted with lakes, marshes and forests. The southern third is a fertile agricultural region; although this region is in the Ukraine it contains none of the important Ukrainian industrial plants. There are no significant mineral deposits.

SIGNIFICANCE OF SOVIET AREA EAST OF 108 DEGREES EAST

The area of the USSR east of 108 degrees east is desolate and mountainous. It contains about seven million people (three percent of the USSR population). Only about three percent of the total Soviet industrial output originates in this region. About 10 percent of the output of construction materials, five percent of the energy, four percent of the metals, three percent of the military end items, one percent of the fabricated metal products and some chemicals are produced in this area. There are six important shipyards, three electrical machinery plants, two airframe plants, two oil refineries and one artillery plant. Ten percent of the shipbuilding and five percent of the airframe capacity are in this area. Although this area includes some uranium ore, it contains no known nuclear material processing plants or test sites or guided missile plants or launching areas. The only domestic source of diamonds, the primary sources of gold, and some significant deposits of tin, antimony, lead and zinc are in this area. There are no major producers of automobiles, trucks, tanks, tractors, agricultural machinery, antifriction bearings, railroad rolling stock, machine tools, aircraft engines, electron tubes or telecommunication equipment.

The part of this area north of the Arctic Circle is a desolate tundra region with a harsh climate. The sparse population of less than one million people is concentrated in about 15 settlements, mostly along the coast. Economic activity is insignificant, although uranium is mined at Pevek.

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SOVIET MILITARY FORCES

Soviet military forces known to be located west of 28 degrees east include:

Ground - 67 line divisions--38 percent of total; 35 divisions --20 percent--in USSR; 32 divisions--18 percent--in Satellites.

Air - 184 class 1 and 2 airfields--42 percent of total; 134--31 percent--in Satellites; 50--11 percent--in USSR (a few with nuclear weapon storage areas).
- 5,735 aircraft--30 percent of total; 3,825--21 percent--in USSR; 1,910--nine percent--in Satellites.

Navy - four important naval bases and about one-fourth of USSR's total naval strength including 69 long range submarines.

Soviet military forces known to be located east of 108 degrees east include:

Ground - 26 line divisions--14 percent of total.

Air - 51 class 1 and 2 airfields--11½ percent of total.
- 3,400 aircraft--18 percent of total.

Navy - three major naval bases and about one-fifth of USSR's total naval strength including 44 long range submarines.

Soviet military forces known to be located east of 108 degrees east and above Arctic Circle include:

Ground - none.

Air - five class 1 and 2 airfields; no aircraft believed permanently based this area.

Navy - none